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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 11
48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007
INTRODUCED BY
Candy Spence Ezzell

FOR THE WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL
REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER TO ADOPT A PLAN
FOR ACQUIRING WATER RIGHTS DATA FOR THE WATERS PROGRAM WITHOUT
REMOVAL OF ORIGINAL FILES FROM THE ROSWELL DISTRICT 2 OFFICE
OF THE STATE ENGINEER.

WHEREAS, the Pecos valley water users organization is a
quasi-public organization composed of representatives of
public agencies, including county and municipal governments,
irrigation and conservancy districts and others located in the
lower Pecos valley of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the primary focus of the Pecos valley water
users organization is water use, availability and planning in
the area included within the lower Pecos valley in New Mexico;
and

WHEREAS, the water rights files of the state engineer in
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1 the Roswell district 2 office contain pertinent documents
2 relating to historical and current data regarding water use
3 and supply in the area; and

4 WHEREAS, the documents date back to the middle of the
5 nineteenth century and consist of water well logs,
6 hydrological studies and reports, reports of water use,
7 transactional histories of water rights ownerships and
8 transfers and similar data; and

9 WHEREAS, information in the files of the district 2
10 office of the state engineer is critical to the continuing
11 administration and understanding of the water situation in the
12 area and is essential to the needs of individual water users
13 on a daily and continuing basis; and

14 WHEREAS, the state engineer has announced his intention
15 to transfer the records and data from the Roswell district 2
16 office to Albuquerque for copying, restructuring and
17 reassembling, and to then transfer the original data to Santa
18 Fe for archival storage and to the WATERS database for access
19 through the internet; and

20 WHEREAS, the state engineer has not specified the length
21 of time that the records would be missing from the Roswell
22 district 2 office and thus unavailable for use by water users,
23 researchers and abstracters, thereby making access to such
24 information unreasonably difficult; and

25 WHEREAS, the Pecos valley water users organization

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1 believes that the state engineer's proposed actions will
2 undoubtedly result in loss of data, in realignment of data and
3 in general confusion; and

4 WHEREAS, it would appear that the better solution would
5 be to copy or scan all of the files completely and intact,
6 without realignment or restructuring, in the Roswell district
7 2 office, and then to forward the scanned data or copies to
8 Albuquerque for further processing;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
10 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the office of the state engineer be
11 requested to reconsider the plan for removal of the water
12 rights files from the Roswell district 2 office and, instead,
13 adopt a plan to acquire the data necessary for the WATERS
14 database within that office, without restructuring or
15 realignment into various categories, and to then forward the
16 data to Albuquerque for further processing; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
18 transmitted to the state engineer and the governor.